

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1 **Claim 2 (currently amended):** A method for determining
2 a threshold value (O_{\max} , O_{\min} , O_{TR}) serving to limit an output
3 signal of a processing unit into which an input signal has
4 been fed, characterized in that a level of the input signal
5 is determined and that the threshold value (O_{\max} , O_{\min} , O_{TR})
6 is controlled as a function of the level of the input
7 signal, wherein from the said level a mean level (I) is
8 derived on the basis of which the threshold value (O_{\max} , O_{\min} ,
9 O_{TR}) is controlled.

1 **Claim 3 (currently amended):** The method as in claim
2 2, wherein the threshold value (O_{TR}) is controlled by a
3 differential amount (TR_{max}) above the mean level (I) of the
4 input signal.

1 **Claim 4 (previously presented):** The method as in
2 claim 2, wherein the mean level (I) is derived from the
3 input signal $s(t)$ along the following formula:

$$I = \frac{1}{T} \times \int_o^T |s(t)| \times dt$$

5 whereby an averaging function is performed over a time
6 interval T.

Claims 5-8 (canceled)

1 **Claim 9 (previously presented):** The method as in
2 claim 3, wherein the differential amount (TR_{max}) is adjusted
3 along a compression ratio for a hearing-impaired person.

1 **Claim 10 (original):** Application of the method per
2 one of the claims 1 to 9 for operating a hearing aid.

1 **Claim 11 (previously presented):** Application of the
2 method per claim 6 for operation of a hearing aid by a
3 hearing-impaired person.

Claims 12-20 (canceled)